

McConnell	Rounds	Tillis
Moran	Rubio	Toomey
Paul	Sasse	Tuberville
Portman	Scott (FL)	Wicker
Risch	Scott (SC)	Young
Romney	Thune	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 62, the nays are 38.

The motion is agreed to.  
The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak for not more than 5 minutes regarding Shalanda Young.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to be here on the Senate floor to offer my strong support for Shalanda Young to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, as I have spoken about her earlier before the committee.

She has worked on the House Appropriations Committee for nearly 14 years. She has been the House Appropriations staff director since 2017.

It is from my position on the Appropriations Committee that I got to know her very well. I can tell you, without any reservation, there is no one better suited for this position. Her deep understanding of, really, the often arcane Federal budget process, her years of experience on the Appropriations Committee, her tenacity, and her dedication to public service will serve the Agency and the American people.

I think after we had the last close-down of the government—I believe the longest in history—we ended up, finally, with four of us meeting for several weeks in my office here in the Capitol. When we forged the agreement to reopen, Senator SHELBY and myself, Congresswomen Lowey and GRANGER from the House—we were chair and vice chair of our respective committees—but, most importantly, Shalanda Young was there for the House, as was Chuck Kieffer, and she had an opportunity to work for the Senate. Her knowledge of the intricacies of that and her ability to help us reach agreement were absolutely essential.

Ms. Young began her career in public service in 2001 at the National Institutes of Health. She first came to work on Capitol Hill as a detailee for the House Appropriations Committee in 2005. She came back as a professional staff member in 2007. She worked her way up in the committee over the years. She helped develop a budget for and conducted oversight of key Agencies. That has given her a critical insight into the operation of some of our Nation's most important Agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the General Services Administration. She even served as a staff director for the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, which covers the budget for Congress.

Ms. Young became staff director of the House Appropriations Committee

in 2017, coincidentally the same year I became vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee. But she has helped the House navigate some of the most difficult issues before the Chamber. As I said, she was a critical player in helping to end the longest Federal shutdown in history in 2019, and she was instrumental in crafting 2020 bipartisan COVID relief bills.

She has a reputation as a tough but fair negotiator. That is high praise on Capitol Hill because she gets it from both Republicans and Democrats. I can attest to the truth of these statements. I have seen these skills firsthand.

I have already said that the Office of Management and Budget is one of the most powerful government Agencies that most Americans have never heard of. That is true. It wields incredible influence on not just the Federal budget but over policies that affect people's lives.

We need people like Shalanda Young to help steer the Agency in these important decisions. That is why I voted yes on the recent motion, and that is why I want to see her in that position as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:35 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

NOMINATION OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, during committee review of Ms. Young's nomination to be the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, important questions were raised about whether she would uphold and enforce the restrictions of the Hyde amendment if confirmed. I found her initial response to a question put to her on the subject troubling as it suggested she may seek to use her position to undermine Hyde. However, after speaking with Ms. Young and pressing her on the issue, I am satisfied that she will follow the law as written by Congress without regard to her own personal views. She has assured me that she has no intention to revise rules or regulations concerning Hyde and understands it is not her place to change law. I therefore have decided to vote in favor of her nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise in support of confirming Shalanda

Young as the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The OMB urgently needs Senate-confirmed leaders, and Ms. Young is exceptionally qualified for this role. Her budget experience and extensive record of bipartisan results are what the OMB needs to guide our Nation through the current pandemic and through the current economic crisis.

During her 14 years as a senior staff member for the House Appropriations Committee, Ms. Young developed a deep understanding of the budget process and government operations, and she has been instrumental in negotiating bipartisan agreements on many critical issues.

She is a proven leader who is ready to get to work at the OMB, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her confirmation.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON YOUNG NOMINATION

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

All postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Young nomination?

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 63, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Grassley	Ossoff
Bennet	Hassan	Padilla
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Hoeben	Sanders
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	Kelly	Shaheen
Carper	Kennedy	Shelby
Casey	King	Sinema
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tester
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Hawley	Rounds
Blackburn	Inhofe	Rubio
Boozman	Johnson	Sasse
Braun	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Capito	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Tuberville
Daines	Paul	Wicker
Ernst	Portman	Young
Fischer	Risch	
Hagerty	Romney	

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 39, Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Michael F. Bennet, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Jeanne Shaheen, Debbie Stabenow, Thomas R. Carper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Tim Kaine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Portman
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Romney
Booker	Kelly	Rosen
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Leahy	Schumer
Carper	Lujan	Shaheen
Casey	Manchin	Sinema
Cassidy	Markey	Smith
Collins	Marshall	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Tester
Duckworth	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Rounds
Blunt	Hagerty	Rubio
Boozman	Hawley	Sasse
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Capito	Inhofe	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Thune
Cotton	Kennedy	Tillis
Cramer	Lankford	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Lummis	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Young nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, today I am proud to join a number of my colleagues to highlight the importance of S. 1, the For the People Act.

The ballot box is the pulsating heart of our government of, by, and for the people.

President Lyndon B. Johnson said:

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice.

Think about that—"the most powerful instrument ever devised for breaking down injustice."

It is Robert Kennedy who observed that "each citizen's right to vote is fundamental to all the other rights of citizenship."

You know, the opportunity to cast a ballot is not just an opportunity. It is not simply a responsibility. But it is a right—the right—the right that embodies all it means to a republic in which the power flows from the people.

Our Nation, however imperfect in the beginning, has worked toward this vision of citizens through the ballot box, driving the vision of our Nation, for over 200 years, overcoming barrier after barrier. We overcame some of the barriers of race with the 14th and 15th Amendments. We overcame the barriers of gender with the 19th Amendment. We overcame barriers that had denied Native Americans the right to vote with the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. We overcame the barriers of Jim Crow with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. But now, as we stand in this Chamber, the central right of each citizen's opportunity to participate in the election through the ballot box is again under attack.

Right now as we speak, there are 253 bills in 43 States assaulting the right to vote. These efforts are designed to make it harder for students to vote, for low-income Americans to vote, for Native Americans to vote, for seniors to vote, and most insidiously, for Black and Brown Americans to vote. And I say "most insidiously" because blocking access to the ballot has been a mas-

sive form of systemic racism throughout our history for Black Americans.

But all of us in this Chamber have taken an oath to the Constitution. All of us have a responsibility to defend the ballot box. It is our responsibility to knock down the barriers that others would put up to prevent citizens from having the opportunity to participate in our elections. That is exactly what S. 1, For the People, does in the face of the greatest attack on voting rights in this Nation since Jim Crow.

This legislation puts the power back where it belongs—in the hands of the people.

This bill said that if you believe in the vision of our democratic Republic, then you believe in voter empowerment, not voter intimidation, not voter obstruction, not voter suppression.

This bill says that the people should choose their politicians, not the other way around. Gerrymandering attacks the very notion of equal representation that is so important in the social contract of the citizens with their government. So this bill says we will have an independent commission in each State to draw the boundaries of the districts so that we put an end to partisan gerrymandering.

This bill says that government of, by, and for the people means you can't have a stadium sound system turned up to full volume, drowning out the voice of the people. And what is that stadium sound system? It is the dark money, hundreds of millions of dollars of unidentified funds racing and coursing through our elections across this country, doing attack ads, with citizens having no idea where that funding is coming from. That is simply wrong.

This bill says that public servants should work in the public interest, not to line their own pockets, not to serve simply the wealthy or the powerful or the privileged.

These points are straightforward. We have been fighting to improve and guarantee the vision of government of, by, and for the people over our entire history. Now, to protect our system of voting, the foundation of our Republic, we have to get this bill over the finish line. We have an extraordinary team working to make that happen, Senators with sturdy, clear ideals and excellent ideas and grit and determination coming together to save our Republic: Senator KLOBUCHAR, who will be speaking next—author of several of the key provisions of this bill, including bipartisan provisions—who tomorrow will be chairing the first-ever Senate hearing on this landmark legislation; Senator PADILLA, who knows exactly what it is like to be a secretary of state and has been an amazing champion for voter empowerment in his home State; Senator VAN HOLLEN, who led the EMPOWER Act and the Restoring Integrity to America's Elections Act; Senator WHITEHOUSE, who authored the DISCLOSE Act portion of the bill and is a tremendous leader on campaign finance reform.